



# News Release

For immediate release: April 16, 2008

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## **Seattle Public Schools Principal Appointments for 2008-2009**

Superintendent Maria L. Goodloe-Johnson, PhD., and Chief Academic Officer Carla Santorno have announced principal appointments for the 2008-2009 school year. The appointments are a result of a rigorous process that began in fall 2007. The selection process began with national and local recruitment. Applications were screened and initial interviews, with an emphasis on instructional leadership, conducted by a team of principals and central office leaders to create a pool of the most qualified applicants. Matching of candidates to specific school openings began when a team from each school developed a profile of the qualities desired in the next school leader. The school-based team worked with the human resources department to select a series of candidates for interviews, and then provided feedback on the strengths of each applicant relative to the needs of the school.

The three finalist candidates for each school were taken on an educational walk-through of classrooms where they saw instruction in progress. They were then asked to provide written feedback on their observations. "The classroom is where our most important work occurs and hearing the candidates' perspective on what they observed provides us a very good sense of how they will perform as instructional leaders," said Chief Academic Officer Santorno.

Final interviews were conducted and appointments made by the Superintendent and Chief Academic Officer. "We know that the quality of instruction in the classroom and quality of leadership in our schools are key to student achievement," said Superintendent Goodloe-Johnson. "The selected candidates embody the high quality of leadership our schools need. I am very impressed with our four incoming principals."

Seattle Public Schools encourages and mentors internal candidates for school leadership roles. "We value and encourage talented teachers and other certificated staff who are interested in administration to gain credentials, serve as assistant principals or interns, and to apply for principal roles," said Santorno. "We are committed to mentoring aspiring leaders."

### **Appointments include:**

#### **Catharine Blaine K-8 School**

**Heather Swanson** has been selected as the principal for Catharine Blaine K-8 School. Ms. Swanson served as principal intern/assistant principal at Blaine for 18 months prior to her appointment as interim principal in fall 2007. She also has leadership experience as a principal intern at Sanislo Elementary and Eckstein Middle School. Ms. Swanson began her career teaching Language Arts, Social Studies and Reading at Denny Middle School. She also held the role of Center Director for Sylvan Learning Center in Everett for two years. Ms. Swanson has a Bachelor of Arts in English with endorsements in secondary education, language arts and history from Seattle Pacific University; and a Masters in School Administration, also from Seattle Pacific University.

### **Kimball Elementary School**

**Anne Fitzpatrick** will be the new principal at Kimball Elementary School. Ms. Fitzpatrick began her teaching career at Mercer Middle School where she taught math, social studies, and language arts. She then worked as a mentor teacher for the district for three years. During this time she received her administrative credential from Western Washington University. Ms. Fitzpatrick did her internship at Blaine K-8 and was then appointed assistant principal at Van Asselt Elementary on Beacon Hill.

Ms. Fitzpatrick replaces Ms. Birgit McShane, who served as interim principal for 2007-2008.

### **Loyal Heights Elementary School**

**Cashel Toner** will be the new principal at Loyal Heights Elementary School next fall. Ms. Toner's professional preparation includes an Education Specialist degree with a principal certification from Seattle University. Ms. Toner also holds a Masters in Teaching degree from Seattle University. She has taught Kindergarten and 1<sup>st</sup> grades (both Montessori and Contemporary) at Daniel Bagley Elementary School for the past eight years and has also served as Daniel Bagley's Head Teacher for the past two years.

Ms. Toner replaces Principal Clover Codd who has been at Loyal Heights Elementary for the past five years and will be leaving to pursue a doctoral program at Columbia University in New York. There she will be interning with Ms. Lucy Calkins, founding director of the Teachers College Reading and Writing Project of which several Seattle Public Schools are affiliated.

### **Olympic View Elementary School**

**Justin Baeder** has been named the new principal at Olympic View Elementary School. His professional preparation includes a Master's Degree in curriculum and instruction from Seattle University and principal certification from the Danforth Program for Educational Leadership at the University of Washington. He taught science at Aki Kurose Middle School prior to becoming an administrator, and has served as Head Teacher at John Hay Elementary School for the past two years.

Mr. Baeder will be replacing Principal Tim Moynihan who has been at Olympic View Elementary for seven years. Mr. Moynihan will be relocating to Belgrade, Serbia, where he will become the principal of the International School, which educates elementary-age children of international diplomats and employees. He will also be supervising the international baccalaureate program at the elementary school level.

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